

Message Text

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HONORABLE DOLPH BRISCOE

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THIS IS AN URGENT APPEAL FOR YOUR HELP. A MASSIVE HUMANITARIAN EFFORT HAS BEEN UNDERWAY IN COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES TO COLLECT FOOD, MEDICINES, CLOTHING AND OTHER SUPPLIES FOR VICTIMS OF THE RECENT DISASTER IN HONDURAS. HOWEVER, MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO TRANSPORT THE ARTICLES AND HAVE APPEALED TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, THE HONDURAN EMBASSY AND CONSULATES AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FOR HELP.

ON SEPTEMBER 30 AN EMERGENCY GROUP CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE USG FOREIGN DISASTER RELIEF OFFICE (FDRC), THE HONDURAN EMBASSY, THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS, CARE, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES, CHURCH WORLD SERVICE, THE SALVATION ARMY, PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS AND CIVIL DEFENSE PREPAREDNESS AGENCY MET IN WASHINGTON, D.C. TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM FOR THE ORDERLY MOVEMENT OF THE EXISTING COLLECTIONS OF DONATED SUPPLIES TO PORTS OF DEBARKATION.

GOVERNORS, ORGANIZATIONS AND HONDURAN CONSULATES IN SOME STATES ALREADY HAVE DEVELOPED A WELL ORGANIZED SYSTEM FOR THE HANDLING AND TRANSPORT OF THESE COLLECTIONS, AND IT IS NOT INTENDED THAT THE FOLLOWING PLAN INTERFERE WITH OPERATIONS ALREADY IN EFFECT.

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ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE BY THIS EMERGENCY GROUP TO TRANSPORT THE RELIEF SUPPLIES ARE PRIMARILY VOLUNTARY, AND THE SYSTEM SUGGESTED WILL WORK ONLY WITH THE HELP OF PEOPLE MAKING THE COLLECTIONS, THE COMMUNITIES AND THE STATES.

SUPPLIES COLLECTED IN EACH COMMUNITY FOR WHICH TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN MADE BY THE COMMUNITY OR STATE SHOULD BE TRANSPORTED TO A CENTRAL LOCAL COLLECTION POINT. YOUR OFFICE CAN ASSIST WITH THIS PROJECT BY CALLING ON MAYORS OF MUNICIPALITIES INVOLVED IN SUCH COLLECTIONS TO DESIGNATE THE LOCATION OF THE COLLECTION POINT, PUBLICIZE THE INFORMATION AND TO CONTACT THE LOCAL RED CROSS CHAPTER, THE SALVATION ARMY, CHURCH GROUPS AND CIVIL DEFENSE OR DISASTER OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE IN SORTING, SCREENING, BOXING AND DELIVERING SUPPLIES TO THE COLLECTION POINT. YOU MIGHT ALSO WANT TO MAKE AVAILABLE STATE AND MUNICIPAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES TO HELP MOVE THE SUPPLIES.

WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT UNSORTED, UNLABELED SUPPLIES WILL PILE UP ON DOCKS IN HONDURAS WHILE THOSE SUITABLY IDENTIFIED CAN BE HANDLED QUICKLY. THEREFORE, THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS HAS INDICATED IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF GROUPS MAKING COLLECTIONS WOULD GIVE EVERY CONSIDERATION TO THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS. IF NECESSARY, ASSISTANCE FROM RED CROSS, CHURCH AND RELIEF AGENCY VOLUNTEERS MIGHT BE SOUGHT. (1) PLACE LIKE ITEMS IN THE SAME BOX; (2) BOXES SHOULD NOT MEASURE MORE THAN 20 INCHES PER SIDE OR WEIGH IN EXCESS OF 100 POUNDS; (3) COLOR MARK TWO BOX CORNERS AS FOLLOWS (SUGGEST SPRAY PAINTING 6 INCH DOT OR TRIANGLE): FOOD - GREEN; MEDICINES - RED; BLANKETS, TENTS AND CLOTHES - BLUE; KITCHEN UTENSILS - WHITE; TOOLS - YELLOW; PUMPS, MOTORS, OTHER - BLACK. (4) NEW BABY CLOTHING AND CLOTH ARE VERY USEFUL; USED CLOTHING MUST BE CLEAN, CAREFULLY SORTED AND IDENTIFIED (MEN'S, WOMEN'S, CHILDREN'S); AND OF A SIZE TO FIT THE HONDURAN PEOPLE. OBVIOUSLY UNSUITABLE CLOTHING SHOULD NOT REMAIN IN COLLECTIONS TO BE SENT TO HONDURAS. (5) ALL GOODS WILL BE DIRECTED TO COPEN, THE OFFICIAL HONDURAN RELIEF COMMITTEE.

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IT IS REQUESTED THAT YOU ASK THE MAYORS TO REPORT BACK TO

YOUR OFFICE THE LOCATION OF COLLECTION POINTS, TOTAL TONNAGE AND CUBE TO BE MOVED. THEN YOUR OFFICE SHOULD CALL IN THIS INFORMATION TO FDRC, AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C. (PHONE 202-632-9784). WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE A

NAME CONTACT IN YOUR OFFICE, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER TO BE USED BY FDRC IN MAKING NECESSARY LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS. YOUR OFFICE MIGHT ALSO CONTACT LOCAL TRUCKERS TO ENLIST THEIR SUPPORT IN HAULING THESE SUPPLIES TO THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS. ALL OF THE AFOREMENTIONED ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES STAND READY TO ASSIST YOUR OFFICE IN ALL PHASES OF THIS OPERATION. IT WILL ALSO BE HELPFUL IF YOUR PEOPLE COORDINATE THE STATE EFFORTS WITH THE HONDURAN CONSUL IN HOUSTON AS FOLLOWS:

MR. CARLOS SOTO
5633 RICHMOND AVE.
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027
PHONE (713) 528-6589

IF YOUR STATE HAS MADE ITS OWN ARRANGEMENTS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE A CALL INFORMING THE FDRC AS TO THE AMOUNT AND TYPE OF SUPPLIES COLLECTED, PLACE A VALUE ON IT, IF POSSIBLE, AND ADVISE HOW ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR ITS DELIVERY. WE WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE THIS INFORMATION IN OUR REPORTS ON THE HELP PROVIDED TO DISASTER VICTIMS IN HONDURAS BY THE U.S. PUBLIC.

WILLIAM R. DALTON, ACTING U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR, AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D.C. MAW

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